

Atomic shells for U.S. guns

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12 (AFP). — American artillery units in West Germany will be supplied this year with field guns armed with atomic shells, a source close to the Pentagon said today. Also, several U.S. artillery battalions will be sent to West Germany during this year to counter an eventual heavy Soviet tank attack. More reinforcements will follow in 1979, the source said. American artillery units in Germany could be supplied with the neutron bomb if President Carter authorises its production, the source added. American forces in Europe already have 7,000 nuclear arms in the form of shells, bombs and missiles at their disposal.

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UK defence budget pleases NATO

BRUSSELS, Jan. 12 (AFP). — NATO Secretary General Joseph Luns today voiced "great satisfaction" over Britain's decision to raise defence spending by three per cent a year in real terms in the 1979/80 and 1980/81 financial years. In a brief statement to the press, Mr. Luns said the British decision "will, I am sure, be seen by the allies as a positive response to the call in the 1977 NATO ministerial guidance for such increases." The British government's decision, conveyed to NATO today, aims at bringing the defence budget to £5,660 million in 1980/81, according to reports from London. In NATO quarters it had been feared that British defence expenditure would suffer further cutbacks.

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

Arafat prepared to go to Washington

U.S. Congressman: Palestinians appear to accept less-than-total independence for initial phase of self-determination

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Jan. 12 — An American congressman who met for three hours with Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat in Damascus last week says he feels that Mr. Arafat concedes that any Palestinian state established on the West Bank and Gaza may have less-than-total independence in the first years of its existence.

Representative Paul Findley (Republican, Illinois) told the Jordan Times in an interview here last night that he draws this conclusion from Mr. Arafat's suggestion to him that the Palestinians would welcome a peace-keeping and security force in a Palestinian state, if that force were composed of troops of the five veto-wielding permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (the United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain, France and the People's Republic of China).

Rep. Findley said Mr. Arafat called the peace-keeping suggestion "the skeleton of an idea" about how a Palestinian state could have internationally acceptable security arrangements. He said Mr. Arafat "welcomed the idea of a peace-keeping force for a stated period of time, and he chose those five countries to provide the peace-keeping forces because they could be commanded by the secretary general of the United Nations."

Rep. Findley asked Mr. Arafat if the U.N. peace-keeping force could remain in Palestine for ten years or more, to which the PLO leader replied that such details could be considered if the idea were first accepted in principle.

Mr. Arafat was then asked whether he would accept excluding American and Soviet troops from such a force, to allay Western fears of undue Soviet presence or influence in a Palestinian state, and Mr. Arafat again said that any such suggestions would be considered if the basic idea were accepted.

"He did not reject these suggestions," Rep. Findley said, "which indicates to me that he is agreeing to very substantial limitations on the independence of any new Palestinian state. Mr. Arafat said he welcomed such a United Nations-supervised peace-keeping force, and I think that by doing so he concedes that in the short term a Palestinian state will have less-than-total independence."

"I hope... the proposals for self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza are only bargaining positions. We have to convince Begin that Israel has to yield military authority as well as civil authority in the occupied lands."

Rep. Findley said Mr. Arafat suggested it would take 10-15 years to establish "the skeleton of a government system in a Palestinian state," and added that Mr. Arafat said he "could not see the day when the new Palestinian state would have such military power that it would constitute a threat to, or cause concern on the part of, any of its neighbours."

Very positive impression

"His whole objective is obviously peaceful," Rep. Findley said of Mr. Arafat, whom he had met for the first time.

"He came through as a moderate, as one who would make concessions and who would be part of the peace process that is now underway, in Geneva or elsewhere."

On the purely personal level, Rep. Findley said he found Mr. Arafat "thoughtful, courteous, outgoing and easy to converse with."

He added: "I was really braced for a stern lecture from a wild-eyed revolutionary, before I went in to the meeting, but we never had the feeling that we were being preached to."

Mrs. Lucille Findley, the congressman's wife who also attended the meeting, said she was "delighted to meet Arafat. I was very impressed, and personally I liked him very much. Especially because this man whom we only see on television was always portrayed as such a rascal. His hospitality was just beautiful. We had a wonderful meal with him, and we felt like we were guests in his own home."

Rep. Findley continued: "Arafat was very moderate in tone. For example, he did not have a single harsh word for Sadat. He called him 'my friend of many years' and 'a man

I respect', though he thought Sadat was on the wrong course at present."

"Delicate" Damascus meeting

Rep. Findley and three other congressmen met with Mr. Arafat in Damascus in a meeting initiated by Rep. Findley before leaving the U.S. several weeks ago. The other three members of the American congressional delegation now in Amman who met the PLO leader preferred to remain anonymous, given the delicacy of American domestic politics and the three's wish not to have their meeting with Mr. Arafat used against them politically within the United States.

"If I were a Palestinian, I would want at least the hope of an independent state eventually... I feel there must be an independent Palestinian state, from which the Palestinians could elect links with Jordan or anyone else."

"Arafat is held in such ill-repute in the American Congress and nation," Rep. Findley said, that some people would not want it known that they met with him.

Also in the meeting with Mr. Arafat was PLO Political Department Director Faruq Kaddoumi, and Mr. Basel Aql, a personal political advisor to Mr. Arafat.

The suggestion of keeping American and Soviet troops out of the proposed peace-keeping force "should allay Israeli and others' fears of the Soviets moving into the area during a transition period for any new Palestinian state," Rep. Findley said.

He asked Mr. Arafat whether a Palestinian state would want normal diplomatic relations with the United States, and the PLO leader replied with a rather emphatic yes.

Personal message to Carter

At the end of the three-hour meeting, Mr. Arafat dictated a personal message to President Carter, which Rep. Findley will carry and deliver next week, upon his return to Washington.

"The message is of a warm and conciliatory nature," Rep. Findley said, declining to offer any information on whether it was a message of substance or simply of personal and diplomatic niceties.

Rep. Findley also said he asked Mr. Arafat if he would consider travelling to Washington to meet with American legislative or executive leaders, perhaps even with President Carter or the head of his National Security Council, Mr. Zbigniew Brzezinski. Mr. Arafat replied affirmatively, and Rep. Findley now says he will try to set up such a meeting with American political leaders.

"I think Arafat and the Palestinians are making one or two steps of a positive nature, in agreeing to less than full independence in any future state, and if Israeli Prime Minister Begin also moves in the same manner, then I think we can have a meeting of previously irreconcilable positions," Rep. Findley said. He continued:

Place in history for Begin?

"When I first heard of Begin's election, I thought it was a turn for the worse. But now that I've met Begin twice, I've become more impressed by the man, especially by his demeanour in his association with Sadat. He knows he is not in the best of health, and I think he may want to go down in history as a man who brought real peace to Israel. Perhaps we have a situation like Nixon and China, where only a hard-liner can make the necessary tough decisions. I think Begin will be able to make greater concessions than Rabin would have been able to do."

The Sinai settlements question puzzles me, though, but I hope, and I am inclined to think, that Israel will finally see that it has to pull back fully from the occupied territories. I hope and believe that the proposals for self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza are only bargaining positions. We have to convince Begin that Israel has to yield military authority as well as civil authority in the occupied lands.

(Continued on p. 2)

King Hussein: Present Mideast situation worries me a great deal

AMMAN, Jan. 12 (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday evening told members of the visiting U.S. congressional delegation that "the present state of affairs in the region worries me to a great extent and it is the duty of everyone to try to salvage the situation." "President Sadat's initiative was not met with proper Israeli response, King Hussein said at a meeting with the delegation from the House of Representatives at the Royal Hashemite Court.

"Israel has not responded in any way to his move and I am every disappointed because of the Israeli position," the King was quoted as saying in an Arabic language release by the Jordan News Agency.

Begin's proposals were a tremendous shock," His Majesty added.

Answering a question by a member of the delegation on his concept of Palestinian self-determination His Majesty said, "Israel's Prime Minister (Menachem Begin) says that Jordan has no right in the West Bank of Jordan. But although we were admitted to the United Nations as a state of two united banks, our position since 1967, before and after the Rabat conference, was based on the necessity of the people of Palestine to exercise the right of self-determination. We call for Palestinian self-determination under international supervision. The Palestinians have the right to participate in forming their future. We know that we can live with any path they choose to follow as a result of the exercise of free choice."

"We will back what the Palestinians choose"

On the possibility of setting up a Palestinian state, which

would come through the process of self-determination, King Hussein said that the possibility was there, and "we will back what the Palestinians choose knowing what strong ties exist among the Arabs in this region."

"We agree to any sort of relations between Jordan and the Palestinian entity as long as they come as a result of free choice by the Palestinians. In the past, we rejected any premature announcement of ties because we want this to come as a result of free choice... The Palestinian personality is an important factor, fraternal relations are important too. This is a matter to be discussed within the context of Israeli withdrawal," His Majesty said.

Agreement on principles key to Arab participation

Answering a question on the means of moving the process of peace forward, the King said that "there must be an agreement on the principles upon which peace would be founded: total Israeli withdrawal and Palestinian self-determination. If President Sadat calls for joint Arab action, that must be based on agreement on these points. This is the key to peace."

On the possibility of Jordan's participation in peace efforts he said that since 1967 he had been doing his best to achieve progress towards peace but Israel's position had always been negative, in short, it refused to withdraw.

"Our past experience decided our present position."

Conditions for peace

"Any settlement of the problem must be based on total Israeli withdrawal, guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the Palestinians -- including the right of refugees to return to their land or to receive compensation -- and the right of self-determination. Jerusalem must be returned to Arab sovereignty."

"Security in the region according to U.N. resolutions 242 and 338, cannot be established by building settlements and military zones in the occupied land," His Majesty said.

King Hussein said that Egypt was in close touch with the progress of the Palestinian issue.

Israel has shown nothing except short-sightedness and dependence on military force since President Sadat's initiative, the King said.

The members of the delegation expressed their appreciation for King Hussein's and Jordan's efforts for peace in the region.

The meeting was also attended by Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf,



His Majesty King Hussein speaks to the Zahlocki delegation from the U.S. House of Representatives at the Royal Palace Thursday. Ambassador Thomas Pickering is to the King's right. Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf (left background) and Minister Amer Khammash are behind the King.

Minister of the Court Amer Khammash and the U.S. Ambassador to Amman Thomas Pickering.

WASHINGTON WARNS AGAINST COMMUNISTS IN ITALIAN GOVERNMENT

ROME, Jan. 12 (AFP). — The administration of U.S. President Jimmy Carter issued its strongest warning to date about Communist participation in a Western European government.

The statement followed the rejection by Italy's minority Christian Democrat government of Communist demands for a share of power, as Italy faced further violent street demonstrations.

It was generally expected here tonight that the government, headed by Giulio Andreotti, would resign early next week.

The U.S. embassy in Rome issued a communique quoting a State Department spokesman in Washington saying the administration was increasing its concern about developments, since the Communist and four other parties ended a pact this week which enabled the Christian Democrats to run the government.

Gulf remains between Egypt and Israel on Sinai settlements

CAIRO, Jan. 12 (AFP). — Egypt and Israel continue to disagree over the issue of Israeli settlements in the Sinai, Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizman said here today after a meeting of a joint Egyptian-Israeli military commission.

Gen. Weizman spoke of a "gap" between the positions of the two countries, but said that both sides hoped the "gap can be bridged."

Egyptian War Minister Mohammed Abdul Ghani Gamassi, speaking at a joint news conference with Gen. Weizman, minimised the importance of the differences. He asked the media to stop pressing for a quick agreement, saying definitive results could not be achieved in two days.

The two ministers head their countries' delegations to a joint military commission set up in late December talks between President Anwar Sadat and Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

A joint political commission is to convene in Jerusalem on Monday.

Both ministers expressed the hope that solutions could be found, with Gen. Weizman describing the commission's work as the "beginning of a long road to find a solution at the end of it."

Referring to the Israeli settlements, Gen. Weizman held that they "help a normalisation of borders". Israel would not, he said, "add any new settlements in the Rafah area" but "might strengthen the ones which are there."

Gen. Weizman also defended the Israeli position on the importance of Israeli airfields in the Sinai, noting the isolation of Eilat and the need for a presence in the Tiran Straits, especially once the Israeli presence at Sharm Al Sheikh was modified.

Gen. Gamassi stressed that the peace agreement would outline demilitarised zones under United Nations Resolution 242 and would define the size of armed forces in the Sinai Peninsula.

For the moment, the joint military commission would work

only on bilateral military questions, until the political commission reached a definitive decision on the Palestinian issue, Gen. Gamassi said.

Regarding Egyptian reaction in the event of Israeli involvement in war on another front, Gen. Weizman said: "The subject did come up. It's a subject to be dealt with much, much later into the future. Let's have peace first."

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Boumedienne pays surprise visit to Soviet Union

MOSCOW, Jan. 12 (Agencies) — Algerian President Houari Boumedienne and Foreign Minister Abdel Aziz Bouteflika arrived here today for a surprise visit expected to last at least 24 hours, Soviet sources said.

Mr. Boumedienne requested the visit with a view to the forthcoming summit of hardline anti-Israeli Arab nations opposed to President Anwar Sadat's Middle East peace initiatives, the sources said.

He previously paid surprise visits to Moscow on two occasions, following the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and during the October 1973 war.

Mr. Boumedienne left Algiers on Jan. 3 for a tour of Middle East and Gulf nations, arriving in Moscow from Damascus.

Diplomatic observers suggested that President Boumedienne might inform Soviet authorities of his request for mediation in the conflict between Iraq and Syria. A reliable Soviet source said meanwhile that Algerian and Soviet leaders would discuss bilateral issues and current problems such as the Western Sahara.

Moscow has avoided taking a clear-cut stance to date on the former Spanish Sahara,

where Algerian-backed Polisario front nationalists are fighting a guerrilla war against Morocco and Mauritania, who partitioned the territory.

Moscow maintains good relations with Algeria while pursuing business negotiations with Morocco over the phosphate "deal of the century".

Marathon session in Damascus

In Damascus a government spokesman said today that Syria and Algeria have agreed on the need for speedy measures to consolidate the anti-Egyptian front opposed to overtures for peace with Israel.

He was speaking after a marathon meeting between Syrian President Hafez Assad and President Boumedienne which lasted most of the night.

The spokesman said the two heads of state again underlined the importance of "confronting capitalist plans."

The meeting was also attended on the Algerian side by Foreign Minister Bouteflika, who returned from Baghdad last night after delivering an urgent message from President Boumedienne to Iraqi President Ahmad Hassan Al Bakr.

The government spokesman said the meeting also agreed that further inter-Arab talks should be held "to continue studying the requirements of steadfastness."

This was interpreted by observers as an intention to convene another "reconciliation" Arab summit after reconciling Syria and Iraq.

World News Roundup...

Bazooka attack on Galilee from Lebanon

TEL AVIV, Jan. 12 (R). — A number of bazooka rockets were fired early today from Southern Lebanon at an Israeli patrol moving near the border in northern Galilee, residents in the area said. There were no casualties and the Israelis fired back. The incident, which occurred between the border kibbutzim (collective settlements) of Manara and Yiftah, was the fourth in about six weeks.

First Egyptian tourist visits Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan. 12 (AFP). — The first Egyptian tourist to come to Israel has called on Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kolek. The visitor, Sayed Abdul-Aziz Amara, signed the city's guest book of honour and wrote a long poem dedicated to Jerusalem beneath his signature. The City Council gave him a book of drawings and poems by Jewish and Arab children on the theme of peace. Penned in the book was the wish that Mr. Amara "will be the first of numerous Egyptian tourists who will visit Jerusalem when peace comes."

Egypt said to train troops against Libya

BEIRUT, Jan. 12 (AFP). — Egypt is training 500 Chadians and Sudanese for "special missions" in a training camp near Alexandria at a moment when it is concentrating troops on the Libyan border, Al Kifah Al Arabi, the pro-Libyan daily here, reported today. In a partly-censored dispatch from Cairo which quoted a well-informed Egyptian military source, the paper's correspondent said that Egyptian Intelligence also tried to make contact over a month ago with Libyan Touareg tribesmen "on the pretext of wanting to use their expertise in camel-rearing". The Touareg, however, refused to get involved, the paper said. TASS news agency also reported yesterday that Egypt was massing troops on the Libyan border.

Pope urges special status for Jerusalem in talks with Dayan

VATICAN CITY, Jan. 12 (AFP). — Pope Paul VI met Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan here today for talks centring on moves toward peace in the Middle East.

Urging Israel to recognise the "pre-eminently religious character of the holy city" of Jerusalem, Pope Paul repeated the Vatican's call for special status and international guarantees for the city, a papal communique said.

The Pope expressed the "earnest hope that the impulse given to negotiation may prove decisive for a just peace, thanks to the courage and far-sightedness of the leaders involved in the discussions and through participation by all the interested parties."

Without specifically referring to Israel or the Palestinians, he asked for a solution which satisfied the essential requirements of security and justice in the region in a "definitive settlement" of the "long and painful conflict."

The Pope expressed the conviction that "in spite of the difficulties accumulated in the course of these highly critical years, it is possible to reach solutions that combine the basic demands of both security and justice for all the peoples of the area and that lay the foundation for a peaceful future for those peoples," the communique said.

In their meeting, Mr. Dayan outlined Israel's position on the issues discussed, including protection of holy sites,

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High-class stupidity from high-class folks

You have to be something of a special person to be Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations, as is Rabbi Alexander Schindler, and, axiomatically, you are then entitled to say things that are especially stupid, and intellectually draconian, when discussing the Middle East situation and the Palestinian question.

Rabbi Schindler said in Aswan (never mind, for the moment, what Rabbi Schindler is doing in Aswan) this week that he thinks the creation of a Palestinian state would pose "a security threat" to Israel. Well, the truth is that Rabbi Schindler's opinion represents a graver threat to the hopes of many people, Rabbi Schindler himself, presumably, included, who look forward to the day when real peace can reign in the Holy Land.

There is something morally gruesome about a leading American Jewish figure parroting the cliché-riddled propaganda of Zionism in a repetitively desperate attempt to make believe the Palestinian people do not exist, and are not entitled to determine their own future. For Rabbi Schindler to package evasive Zionist propaganda under the familiar old guise of "security threat" sloganeering is a failure of thinking and a failure of leadership on his part. He, more than most others, is expected to rise above the gutter fears of maniacal soldier-settler Zionists who have built their country and their settlements on the land and the blood and the rights of the Palestinian people. We expect people like Rabbi Schindler to help the Israelis understand that they will be truly secure only when they stop being predatory, colonialist and magalomaniacally expansionist. If Rabbi Schindler only sees the Palestinians as a security threat to Israel, he should ponder whether this is not because Israel has proved to be such an awesome and continuing security threat to the Palestinians. Security comes from a two-way process of mutual recognition, not from American rabbis who speak nonsense. If Rabbi Schindler does not appreciate this fact, he should not go around displaying his ignorance, and especially not in Aswan.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL DUSTOUR, on Tuesday, said Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizman's statement in Cairo Wednesday that the problems which prevent the coming of Middle East peace need 30 years to be resolved can only be seen as a true expression of the Israeli government's mentality of playing for time and delaying the coming of peace as much as possible. If this is the attitude of the head of Israel's military delegation which is supposed to carry less responsibility than the political delegation no one can predict how much more time will the more important negotiations have to take before peace is established. While playing for time Israel is also going ahead in creating more settlements in occupied Arab territories knowing that such a strategy will result in increased Arab disunity. Meanwhile, the year will pass and the United States will be busy next year with preparations for the presidential elections when the Zionist lobby will find it easier to influence U.S. decisions in favour of Israel. The least to be said is that the Arabs must not allow time to be wasted by Israel or else they will really have to wait 30 years for problems to be resolved.

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PLANNING TO STUDY IN BRITAIN?

On Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 18:00 at the British Council Centre, you can learn all you need to now about how to apply to British schools and colleges and what to expect when you get there.

Anti-accident group works to develop traffic education

In this third article in our four-part series exploring increasing traffic congestion and accidents and steps being taken to counter the growing chaos,

AHMAD MAJDOUBEH reports on the activities of the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents.

As a result of the increase in traffic accidents, and as a means to reduce the number as much as possible, the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents was established.

Mr. Sami Habbib, Chairman of the Society and General Manager of the Middle East Insurance Company told the Jordan Times that the society is a voluntary one and that membership is open to any one interested in traffic accidents.

The society, which comprised thirty five members, was established in Aug. 1975. The members were both traffic specialists and people interested in traffic. The board of directors of the society was formed in Dec. 1975. Mr. Habbib was elected as chairman of the society. Col. Ahmad Abu Saud, from the Public Security Department, as its co-chairman. Dr. Rawhi Sharif, from the Royal Scientific Society, as its honorary secretary, and Mr. Ghalib Abu Qourah, chairman of the National Insurance Company, as its honorary treasurer.

Members of board

The members of the board of directors were Col. Maher Nabulsi, from the Public Security Department, Dr. Hashem Sabagh, Managing Director of the Stock Exchange, Mr. Derek Ledger, Director of the Royal Automobile Club, Mr. George Khouri, a notable journalist, and Mr. Mohammad Ju'aneh. The society also accepted the following as honorary members because of their constant support to the society: Dr. Albert Butros, Director General of the Royal Scientific Society, Mohammad Kamal, Director of the Jordan Television, the Mayor of Amman Ma'n Abu Nawar, and Mr. Mohammad Khatib.

Soon after the establishment of the society 23 members from different walks of life, in addition to 28 insurance and automobile companies, joined.

Immediately after that the society formed a number of sub-committees to help in carrying out its aims. These were the membership committee, financial committee, government relations committee, public relations committee, and a committee responsible for presenting proposals to different private and public institutions on the best ways of reducing the number of road accidents.

The Board of Directors holds its meetings temporarily, until it finds a new building, at the Royal Automobile Club at Jabal Luweibdeh.

Main aim

The main aim of the society is to reduce the number of road accidents as much as it can. To achieve this it has adopted the following methods. First, it presents practical proposals and advice to all of society on the best ways of traffic safety. Secondly, it holds conferences, seminars, courses and lectures in different part of Amman to acquaint the people with the traffic laws, regulations, and threats. Thirdly, it cooperates with all institutions, private and public, and individuals who show any interest in traffic and accidents.

The only financial resources for the society is the money it receives from the members, which in 1976 totaled JD 973.

Since its establishment, Mr. Habbib says, the society has achieved several projects. To begin with, in cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society, it published 5,000 copies of a brochure on its aims and methods. These copies were distributed to schools, banks, universities, ministries, and other public and private institutions. These carried an open invitation to all the people interested to join the society or support it.

It contacted similar societies in the Arab world and asked them for support and cooperation, especially those in Egypt and Tunisia.

It also contacted Radio Jordan and Jordan TV. The radio and television agreed to present monthly or weekly programmes on traffic issues. The programmes include interviews with traffic experts and people interested in traffic. They will warn people against the dangers of violating traffic laws and instruct them on the best ways for traffic safety.

It cooperates with a number of traffic officials to deliver lectures on different traffic subjects. These lectures are of vital importance. Dr. Sharif, for example, delivered a lecture at the Rotary club at Jabal Amman. As a result most of the club members joined the society.

Traffic Day

The society participates in the Traffic Day by distributing traffic posters and writing essays in the newspapers.

University of Jordan students, Mr. Habbib says, can understand and appreciate the importance of voluntary work more than other people. Therefore, the society contacted the Dean of Students' Affairs and other public service officials at the university, asking them for support. The university students agreed to visit schools and other institutions to talk on traffic issues.

It presented several traffic proposals to the Ministry of Public Works, asking the latter to fix traffic signs on some roads where accidents occurred frequently. These roads included Amman-Zarqa road, Amman-Ramtha road, Amman-University road, Amman-Jarash road, and the desert road. The Ministry of Public Works, Mr. Habbib says, responded immediately and placed signs on those roads.

The most notable activity by the society is the project it submitted to the Ministry of Education in Sept. 1977. Mr. Habbib said. In this project the society proposed that traffic should be taught as an independent subject at schools. Traffic education, Mr. Habbib says, should begin in the early stages of the child's life, so that he can acquire good traffic habits.

Three levels of education

The project also described the guidelines of traffic education throughout the stages of study. Traffic teaching, the project suggests, should be presented through three levels. The first level is the amount of traffic teaching given to learners from the age of 5-10. These learners should be trained carefully and gradually on traffic matters first as pedestrians and then as bicycle-riders.

The training includes the use of the pavement, the crossing of the street, the understanding of the gestures of the policeman, and the proper use of the bicycle. He also should be warned against playing in the street.

The second level is the amount of traffic teaching given to learners from the age of 10-15. Learners here should be trained on the use of motorcycles, the effect of the weather on traffic, speed law regulations, the causes of accidents, and traffic safety.

The third level is the amount of traffic teaching given to learners from the age of 15 and above. Teaching here should focus on the moral values. Learners should be taught to feel responsible towards traffic laws. They, for example, should always know that the street they are driving in is used by thousands of people - a fact which many people ignore. They should be thoroughly trained in the use of different kinds of automobiles. They should be briefed on the negative results of accidents socially, economically and materially.

This training, Mr. Habbib concludes, needs well trained teachers on traffic matters. All this needs the coordinating of efforts between all institutions and people interested in traffic safety. It also needs the participation of parents in teaching their children from the beginning the moral values concerning the various traffic matters. Once this is achieved, traffic officials are sure, the number of traffic accidents will be reduced.

The businessmen are part of a delegation from the Chinese National Federation of Industries, here on a three day visit before moving on to Kuwait and Bahrain. They have already visited Iran and Saudi Arabia.

The vice leader of the group Mr. Tien-cheung Kuo said that they were here to do so-

me on the spot market research. Few of the companies represented in the delegation (and they cover every field of business from synthetic resins through hosiery and machinery to biscuits) have trading arrangements at present in Jordan. Nothing substantial has emerged as yet from the visit, but contacts have been made. Mr. Kuo said that the Jordanian Chamber of Commerce had been "wonderful". Members of the delegation also talked with representatives from the Ministry of Supply, which is interested in Chinese goods to stock its newly-opened government stores.

There is already a commercial office in Amman which promotes Taiwanese business and a joint-venture textile at Zarqa. Two or three shipments

of goods arrive every month from Taiwan. These consist mainly of "sundries" (shoes, table-cloths, toys etc). There are even a number of Jordanians who are studying in Taiwan (privately) and some ex-students who stayed on there to use their knowledge of Arabic to engage in business.

The Republic of China has no diplomatic relations with Jordan, but you can not do good business that easily, "I feel" said Mr. Kuo. "We are very much liked here. There is 'practically no limitation' on trade here, 'apart from the limitations on price and quality.' He had time to say little more than this before ringing me by the hand and vanishing into the crowd in pursuit of a far more important client.

National News Roundup

Prince Hassan visits Housing Bank

AMMAN, Jan. 12 (JNA). — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan today visited the Housing Bank where he inspected various sections of the bank and presided over a meeting which discussed various financial issues, including ways of increasing the amount of loans available at the institutions concerned. The meeting was attended by the chairman of the National Planning Council, the governor of the Central Bank, the deputy minister of the Ministry of Labour, the bank officers and senior officials.

Zeid Ibn Shaker to visit Pakistan

AMMAN, Jan. 12 (JNA). — The Commander-in-Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces Lt-Gen. Sharif Zeid Ibn Shaker will start a four-day visit to Pakistan at the invitation of Pakistan's Military Ruler Mohammad Zia Ul Haq on Saturday. Sharif Zeid, who will be accompanied by a military delegation, will hold talks with Pakistani officials on military cooperation between the two countries.

Dajani in Belgrade

BELGRADE, Jan. 12 (JNA). — Minister of Industry and Commerce Dr. Najmeddine Dajani today held talks with the Yugoslav Foreign Trade Minister on boosting commercial and economic cooperation between the two countries. Dr. Dajani, arrived here yesterday on a five-day official visit to Yugoslavia. He is expected to sign a trade and economic agreement aimed at bolstering economic operation and promoting trade exchange.

Irbid to tackle Health Development

IRBID, Jan. 12 (JNA). — The committee of the Municipality of Irbid discussed during a meeting here today ways of developing health conditions in the city, especially in the industrial area. The chairman of the committee said after the meeting that the committee has prepared a timetable for this purpose.

U.S. Congressman: Palestinians appear to accept less-than-total independence for initial phase of self determination

(Continued from p. 1)

"I am encouraged by what Begin has said so far, because I think he will be able to see the circumstances for a full Israeli withdrawal. They need reassurances, and they cannot see those circumstances today. They will have to come around to seeing the PLO as something other than a bunch of bomb-throwing terrorists. And Arafat can help that process, both in Israel and the United States."

U.S. - PLO talks justified

Rep. Findley thought the Palestinians should have taken up the American suggestion of accepting the principles of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 "with whatever reservations they want to add on", and thereby to start a dialogue with the United States.

Rep. Findley suggested the moment be at hand when Mr. Arafat and the PLO can take a similar posture to that of President Sadat by coming out decisively with a challenge to Israeli peace calls.

"Mr. Arafat can help his own cause by taking very great risks and very strong decisions such as Mr. Sadat took. Mr. Sadat did so obviously at great risk to his own position, but he has come out a very strong man."

Mr. Findley suggested the PLO should be less concerned about all the talk of its legitimacy. "The PLO is clearly the only legitimate voice of the Palestinians," he said. "Who else is there? Arafat and the PLO are a very important element in the problem confronting Carter. The American executive branch and the State Department have kept the American president cut off from the PLO, because of promises to Israel not to negotiate with the PLO, and they've interpreted the word 'negotiate' in the very broadest sense, to include not having any meetings or talks or contacts of any sort. I feel the United States is now fully justified in making a break here and starting talks with the PLO."

Rep. Findley said, however, that the pro-Israeli lobby in the United States is "an enormously powerful operation, and it doesn't always respond to what the State of Israel wants or prefers."

The pro-Israeli interests in the United States are so vocal and persuasive that they make it difficult for Carter to take the position of showing Israel that it must withdraw completely from the occupied territories and that it must recognize the Palestinians' rights. They are masters of effective lobbying.

Misrepresentation of Israel's real interests

"Sometimes, I feel there is a misperception in the United States of the real interests of Israel. There is a grave U.S. responsibility to see Israel survive. This is an enduring American responsibility and commitment, but in the zeal of the pro-Israeli interests in the United States, there are dangers of hurting Israel. One such danger is failing to recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

"The United States and the Western world certainly should give Israel the security guarantees that it requires, but the only real security for Israel is to have decent relations with its neighbors, to treat them fairly. That cannot be done overnight. But there is nothing in geography that provides truly defensible borders. Israel cannot hope to gain security by achieving a certain geographical line and calling it a de-

fensible border. That's why the Palestinian problem has to be solved to the satisfaction of the Palestinian people."

Asked for his personal views on Palestinian rights or expectations, Rep. Findley said: "If I were a Palestinian, I would want at least the hope of an independent state eventually. But I would be practical enough not to expect that to happen in the next five years. The Palestinians have the right to a homeland in which they will be their own masters, in which they can determine their own future. This might include some confederal arrangement with neighboring states, but the Palestinians should be the ones to decide if a confederal arrangement is the best approach. I feel there must be an independent Palestinian state, from which the Palestinians could elect links with Jordan or anyone else."

Rep. Findley is the ranking Republican member of the House of Representatives International Relations Committee's Europe and Middle East Subcommittee. Though not a long-time specialist on the Middle East in any sense, he has recently been more and more involved with the area.

Improving U.S. - South Yemen ties

One of his special concerns is improving ties between the United States and South Yemen. His involvement in this matter sprang from an incident involving a constituent of his Ed Franklin, in his 20's, who was arrested in Aden in 1973 and charged with spying. He was sentenced to five years in solitary confinement in Aden, upon which Rep. Findley tried to free him, because he was convinced by the young man's innocence. He was freed after serving 16 months.

Diplomatic ties between the U.S. and South Yemen were broken off after the 1967 war, "and my experience in trying to free Ed Franklin impressed upon me the importance of having diplomatic relations. Our attitude to Aden has been anything but enlightened," Rep. Findley said.

One trip to South Yemen by Rep. Findley and a series of meetings with top Aden officials at the United Nations headquarters in New York have opened up something of an ongoing dialogue between the two governments, but the U.S. is not ready to re-establish full diplomatic ties with South Yemen, Rep. Findley feels.

He leaves Amman Friday morning for a brief two-day visit to Aden, the first there by a U.S. official since 1969 after which he will travel to Jerusalem to rejoin the congressional delegation on its last stop.

Blunting anti-boycott legislation

Rep. Findley was also active in trying to blunt the legislation passed by the U.S. Congress last year to counter the Arab Boycott of Israel. His rationale was that, according to reports he had, the boycott did not really hurt Israel very much, if at all, and Congress was only "hobbling American businessmen and creating impediments to U.S. business concerns."

He suggests that American pro-Israeli forces were the main impetus behind the anti-boycott legislation. "I don't think the State of Israel could care less about the boycott, and I don't think Israel was the main motivating force behind the anti-boycott legislation," he says.

He adds: "I always try to be balanced in my actions in the Congress, and my Jewish constituents are very apprehensive. In the Congress, I'm very lonely in my viewpoint at times."

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Talhouni briefs visiting American Congress delegation on M.E. peace moves

AMMAN, Jan. 12 (JNA). — The Speaker of the Upper House Bahjat Talhouni received in his office today the delegation of the United States House of Representatives.

Mr. Talhouni briefed the members of the delegation on the latest developments of the Middle East crisis and Jordan's stand towards it.

Just and durable peace in the Middle East can be achieved, he said, "only if two principles are met: complete Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in the 1967 Israeli war and the recognition by Israel of the national rights of the Palestinians to determination and repatriation."

Mr. Talhouni reiterated Jordan's faith in world peace efforts, the U.N. resolutions, and complete support for Arab dignity.

Jordan believes in a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem because it is only guarantee for the establishment of peace in the Arab world.

Mr. Talhouni referred to the persistent Israeli stand towards a Middle East peace settlement. He said, "This stand is inflexible and contrary to the U.N. resolutions."

members of the delegation, the speaker of the Upper House referred to the European Economic Community's joint statement on the Middle East last year which called for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and the recognition of Palestinian rights.

He also called for the United States and all countries in the world to play a more active role in search for a settlement to the Palestinian crisis.

At the end of the meeting, he presented several gifts to the members of the delegation, including the silver jubilee emblem.

The meeting was attended by the U.S. Ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Thomas Pickering and senior officials.

U.S. Congressmen meet

Sharif Zeid

The Commander-in-Chief of



Sharif Zeid Ibn Shaker addresses the U.S. Congressional delegation in Amman on Thursday. (JNA photo)

the Jordanian Armed Forces Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zeid Ibn Shaker received in his office today members of the congressional delegation.

gation accompanied by the U.S. ambassador to Jordan on the development of the armed forces. The meeting was attended by senior Jordanians military officers.

84-year-old Freya Stark braves the Euphrates on raft

LONDON — (BBC). — At the age of 84, traveller Dame Freya Stark has achieved her great ambition to travel through Syria down the Euphrates river by raft.

Dame Freya Stark has spent a lifetime travelling through the more remote parts of the Middle East, mostly alone, recording her experiences in 20 highly-praised books. Now, aged 84 and sporting an astonishing wardrobe of elaborate pink hats, strings of pearls, Arab dresses over black high-heeled shoes, she was about to realise an ambition she had ever since she first visited Syria 35 years ago. The plan was to set off from Jerusalem on the Syrian-Turkish border — not in a motor launch but in a vessel which complimented both Dame Freya's venerable age and her eccentricity.

It was a raft and, looking like a wispy floating haystack, it was constructed by local Syrians under the guidance of Freya Stark's godson who, with his wife, was accompanying her on the trip. Alarmingly frail-looking, the raft seemed extremely unsuitable for the Euphrates — a river notorious for its treacherous currents. But inside it was equipped with luxuries like lamps and wicker chairs.

Freya Stark had been passing the time in nearby Aleppo until the raft was ready, shopping, brushing up her Arabic and renewing old friendships. She looked for all the world as if she was about to attend a smart garden-party rather than undertake a voyage which several locals said was too perilous to consider seriously. But she immediately instilled a

feeling of calm into the proceedings, although there had been a series of setbacks. The raft proved unriverrworthy when it was launched from the mud-bank on which it had been built; then a violent storm blew up, alarming in its intensity. "Patience is very useful on these occasions," said Freya Stark with an unconcerned air.

Eventually the raft was able to set off — floating slowly and sedately down the tea-coloured Euphrates, occasionally getting stuck on gravel-banks and having to be towed off. The landscape largely unchanged since Sumerian times — was beautiful, quiet, strangely green. "Very English," said Freya Stark. But she pointed out as they passed various historical sites like Pel Ahmar and O'lat Al Nejm. "You don't just see the landscape. You see thousands of years". As the raft drifted down the wide brown river, bubbling with whirlpools, she talked about her life of travel and her fascination with the Middle East.

She had run away from home at the age of three, with the idea of becoming a cabin boy, but had been brought back by the local postman. More seriously, she said she had begun to learn Arabic because she had felt it was the language which covered the largest number of interesting countries; and she added that she had thought, even 50 years ago, that "the countries where there was oil would prove to be the most fascinating in my lifetime." She loved the Arab peoples, she said, because of their sense of humour, their conversation, their admir-

able attitude towards life and death.

The 100-mile voyage lasted just a week and ended at Taqba, exactly half way down the Euphrates, where a six-year-old dam prevented further progress. Freya Stark marvelled at the power of the dam, remarking "the future is just as important as the past in travels." And then it was on to the desert on the Syrian-

Jordanian border near Damascus, to renew her acquaintance with the Rualla Bedouin tribes. The last sight of Freya Stark, 84-year-old traveller extraordinary, was of her climbing on to a horse with the aid of a stepladder to ride across the desert. "Such a pleasure to be riding again," she said as she set off. "I only wish I could get the old thing to gallop."



Freya Stark and her raft at the outset of the 100-mile journey.

Oak moss is a sure pollution indicator

PARIS, Jan. 12 (AFP). — When oak trees begin to lose moss and lichen it is a sure sign that atmospheric pollution in the area is increasing, according to scientists here.

This finding comes after several years of study by a team from the National Institute of Agricultural Research specialising in the effects of pollution on vegetation.

It had been known since the 19th century that oaks were losing their moss, algae and lichen, which grow on the north-facing side of the trunk, but the phenomenon had not been studied scientifically.

Three years ago France's Environment Ministry sponsored a project to study the effects of sulphur dioxide and fluorine from an industrial zone on vegetation in the nearby forest of Roumare, near Rouen. The results gave a wide-ranging chart of pollution in the forest.

They showed that the beech tree has a strong resistance to pollution but the woodland pine has none.

The oak, however, showed a wide range of reactions, and that is one reason why the Netherlands have chosen the tree as an "instrument" to measure atmospheric pollution. The Dutch will plant 100 oaks in the northern province of Drenthe to monitor pollution.

Environmental experts in Fos, near Marseilles, are now studying the epiphytes (parasitic plants) on vegetation, pebbles and rocks on the Mediterranean coast and plan to monitor the impact on them of a steel works and oil refinery complex which is to be built nearby.



Syrian boatmen on the Euphrates lend a hand whenever the raft gets stuck or off course.

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|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Arab Pharmaceutical Co. | 2,700 | 11.000 | 11.050 | 11.000 | 11.000 | — | 11.100 |
| Arab Alcoholic Ind. Co. | 30 | 0.900 | 0.900 | 0.900 | — | — | — |
| Jordan Electricity Co. | 900 | 1.350 | 1.350 | 1.350 | 1.250 | — | — |
| Jordan Petroleum Refining Co. | 1,200 | 0.900 | 0.900 | 0.900 | 0.900 | 0.950 | 0.950 |
| Cement Factory | 2,000 | 15.100 | 15.100 | 15.050 | 15.050 | 15.100 | — |
| Textiles Factory | 100 | 0.900 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | — | — |
| Ceramics Factory | 200 | 1.050 | 1.150 | 1.150 | 1.150 | 1.100 | 1.150 |
| Jordan Phosphate Ind. Co. | — | 1.900 | 1.900 | 1.900 | — | — | — |
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Safeguard agreement is reached by world's main nuclear suppliers

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12 (R). — Fifteen nations capable of supplying nuclear fuel and equipment have reached agreement on safeguards designed to stop other countries getting nuclear weapons. The parties to the agreement, hammered out in two-and-a-half years of secret meetings in London, included all the main suppliers — the United States, the Soviet Union, France, Britain, Japan, West Germany and Canada.

Each of the countries has submitted a detailed list of the new guidelines separately to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, a State Department official said.

Mr. Louis Nye, who headed the U.S. delegation at the talks, said the safeguards would not apply retroactively. They were intended to discourage future transfers of sensitive nuclear technology such as the deals between West Germany and Brazil and between France and Pakistan, he said.

The agreement included the following provisions: — countries buying nuclear fuel or equipment must provide formal assurances that it will not be used to produce a nuclear device whether as a weapon or for a peaceful explosion.

— the IAEA would be allowed to inspect the material or facilities being imported and any similar material produced locally from the same design.

— the guidelines would apply if the equipment or supplies were later passed to a third country for sensitive equipment the permission of the original supplier would have to be sought first.

— the purchasing country had to guarantee effective physical protection to prevent theft or sabotage.

In the event of a suspected violation of the guidelines, the suppliers would consult to decide on possible sanctions.

Mr. Nye said the decision by all countries to publish the guidelines was intended to show the so-called "nuclear have-nots" in the Third World that the suppliers were "not a secret cartel... but a group of countries interested in putting their international safeguard obligations above short term commercial advantage."

He said the agreement represented an important step forward in nuclear non-proliferation policy. Further moves to reach agreement on more stringent rules were expected later this year, he added.

The other countries in the agreement were Belgium, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland.



Susan Carlson makes final adjustments on the first low-cost nuclear medical diagnostic system that measures the flow of blood from the heart. In the past, expensive computers performed this function. The portable unit is produced by the Picker Corporation of Northford, Connecticut. (IPS photo)

U.S. Sen. Kennedy warns Japan of protectionist action if it fails to reduce surplus, foster imports

TOKYO, Jan. 12 (AFP). — Senator Edward Kennedy today gave Japan a strong warning that the United States might soon take protectionist action if Japan did not make imports easier and reduce its trade surplus.

The Massachusetts Democratic senator is in Japan on his way home after a visit to China. His warning coincided with the opening of a new series of talks in Tokyo between President Carter's Special Trade Negotiator Robert Strauss and the Japanese government on

reducing the current trade imbalance.

In preliminary discussions prior to Mr. Strauss' arrival, Japan rejected American demands for increased citrus fruit and beef import quotas and a further cut in customs duty on computers and colour film.

Senator Kennedy emphasised the danger that the United States Congress might be influenced by demands from the country's unemployed. He said this danger was especially serious as "the existence of serious trade barriers in any

nation is an invitation to other countries to develop their own restrictive practices."

Sen. Kennedy said: "As a leading economic power in the modern world, Japan is now being asked to share the responsibilities, as well as the benefits, of creating and maintaining a healthy global economy." He recalled that in the early 1960s when Japan had a heavy trade deficit with the United States, President John Kennedy requested lifting American trade barriers.

Sen. Kennedy said he was confident Mr. Strauss' talks with the Japanese government would end in an agreement by tomorrow but added that Congress' reaction to it would remain to be seen.

The Japanese press reported that the American delegation said the Japanese draft communiqué was not satisfactory as its suggestions were not definite enough.

Sen. Kennedy did say however that in his opinion it was unlikely that President Carter would agree to sign protectionist bills.

U.S.'s Strauss, Japan's Ushiba begin 1st round of trade talks

TOKYO, Jan. 12 (AFP). — Top trade negotiators of Japan and the United States today started two days of talks to end the economic dispute which has plagued the two countries in the past half-year.

Nobuhiko Ushiba, Minister for External Economic Affairs, began a first round of talks with U.S. Special Trade Representative Robert Strauss at the Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Strauss, who flew into Tokyo last night, was scheduled to confer with Agricul-

ture-Forestry Minister Ichiro Nakagawa and with Kichiro Yawata, Director General of the Economic Planning Agency, after his meeting with Mr. Ushiba.

Mr. Strauss is expected to have separate talks tomorrow with Foreign Trade Minister Toshio Komoto and Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda.

A joint statement explaining Japan's intention to reduce its trade surplus will be issued at the end of the second Ushiba-Strauss meeting scheduled for tomorrow afternoon.

Sugar Council to focus on export restrictions

LONDON, Jan. 12 (AFP). — Export restrictions on major sugar producing countries are expected to be the main point to be discussed by the International Sugar Council when it starts ten days of talks in London next Monday.

This meeting, the first under the terms of the new five year International Sugar Agreement (ISA) which came into force on Jan. 1 will also discuss the starting-date when the trigger-points of these restrictions become operative.

The suspension of the New York spot price in November, which in conjunction with the London spot price was to have been used to calculate the relevant indices, meant that the London price, for the time being at least, would be the sole guide.

Market prices, in dollar-terms have been for months, around three cents per pound (or nearly 25 per cent) below the minimum ISA price levels and in view of the huge supply surpluses prevailing are unlikely to show very much improvement in the near future. Therefore a calculation of the "prevailing price" index over the last quarter of 1977 would trigger an immediate cut in export quotas.

If, on the other hand, these calculations were to start only at the beginning of January, as some sources have suggested, then the cuts could only be introduced in three months time, providing market prices remain below the requisite levels.

Producer countries are anticipating that their quotas will be reduced to at least 85 per cent of their quotas, or perhaps 82.5 per cent, in view of the massive production forecast in the current 1977/78 (September/August) season. Latest figures suggest that 92 million metric tons will be produced worldwide (both cane and beet sugar) giving a surplus of 6.5 million tons over consumption which would be added to existing stocks of about 26 million tons.

Consumers, meanwhile, appeared to be well-stocked having made certain of their supplies at the cheap market prices prior to the start of the agreement.

U.S. energy secretary is in Saudi Arabia

JEDDAH, Jan. 12 (AFP). — United States Energy Secretary James Schlesinger today began a visit to Saudi Arabia amid concern among oil producers over the fall of the U.S. dollar.

Mr. Schlesinger flew from Morocco where he discussed uranium, nuclear power and other subjects. In Saudi Arabia he will meet Oil Minister Ahmed Zaki Yamani who this week referred to the possibility of oil being invoiced in a "basket" of currencies rather than the dollar.

Bad pay hurts morale of British air force

LONDON, Jan. 12 (AFP). — The Guardian daily has reported that Britain's air force men were suffering a serious drop in morale due to bad pay.

An internal RAF report says that many airmen were forced to take a second job to maintain living standards.

The RAF report says a pay rise of ten per cent in 1974 had been eroded by "inflation and pay restraint" over the past three years.

Some lower paid ranks, says the RAF, claimed they were able to make ends meet only by sending their wives out to work.

Senior officers were said to be concerned about the "recent severe erosion of pay differentials between ranks."

In its conclusion, the RAF report says "our people are

extremely frustrated," and accused the government of not placing enough value on the armed forces.

The Guardian reported that the situation jeopardised flying safety, but gave no further details.

The Ministry of Defence confirmed the authenticity of the RAF document drawn up after visits to 23 RAF stations in Britain and abroad between July and September last year.

The ministry added that other reports from liaison teams "broadly matched" these findings. As part of a new study of morale another team will visit 20 RAF bases in the next three weeks.

The ministry, which the Guardian says is sympathetic to the servicemen's plight, emphasised that pay is "absolutely a matter for the government."

Swiss hotels want

2-tier currency

BERNE, Jan. 12 (AFP). — Swiss hotels today called for a two-tier currency system under which the Swiss franc fluctuates on the money markets but it is fixed at a minimum for tourists.

The Swiss Hoteliers Society said that sudden changes in currency rates caused "enormous problems" for hotels and the tourist trade generally.

It suggested that, for tourists, the dollar should always be at 2.2 Swiss francs minimum and that the West German mark should be exchanged for one Swiss franc minimum.

British firemen end 9-week strike

LONDON, Jan. 12 (AFP). — Firemen's union delegates today voted to end their nine-week-old strike. The firemen will resume duty on Monday. Delegates voted to end the strike by 28,000 to 11,000 card votes, at their meeting in Bridlington, northeast England.

New York City police say they joined the force because they like people

New York's crime rate is probably one of the highest in the world. Its police, understandably, have a reputation for cynicism and callousness in a city where there is so much violence. Timmer Murari recently spent some time with the cops in Precinct Four One (nickname: Fort Apache) and he found that the reason most of them joined the force was because they like people.

By Timmer Murari

NEW YORK — Fort Apache, the nickname of police Precinct Four One in the south Bronx, has had a quiet year. Last year, it only had 70 murders, 100 rapes, 1578 robberies, 785 assaults, 325 burglaries and 718 auto thefts whereas in the peak year of 1972, there were 101 murders, 134 rapes, 2609 robberies, 1032 assaults and over 4000 burglaries.

Fort Apache doesn't cover much territory; two and a half square miles to be exact; and at the last census, in 1974, it only contained 172,000 people. Ninety two thousand of these are black, 72,000 Hispanic (Puerto Rican and South Americans) and the remainder are dismissed as "others."

Only nightmares

From the overhead subway on this warm, sunny day, with a cool eastern sea breeze, I can look across the Apache's post-war Berlin landscape. There is something unrelentingly cruel about deliberate decay: Endless empty rubble-strewn earth, abandoned buildings, broken walls and the whole landscape daubed black randomly from the frequent fires.

Against the clear blue sky, it is a world of little hope. I can imagine that the people inhabiting it never dream, they only have nightmares. And yet, cautiously walking into the street, there is life down there. There are countless people milling around the bright, garish shops, picking at trinkets on the stalls, loitering around the snack shops eating hot dogs, tacos and bar-b-q chicken.

There are lovely black and Hispanic women, in eye-blinding clothes, bouncing along

the sidewalks, black dudes in velvet hats, skin tight trousers and open shirts, wise-eyed kids who spend an inordinate amount of time watching and waiting for something to happen.

Sudden violence

Here and there the occasional white face slides quickly through the sea of colour. This mirage of daily life looks comforting but the statistics warn me it isn't. Violence is brutally sudden.

"They have guns out there," Captain Tom Walker, the precinct commander, explains to me when I get to his office half a block down from the subway station.

"Saturday night specials, .38s, magnums, sawn off shot guns, M-16s. They brought a lot back from Vietnam. I tell my kids, I have five, that if they bump into someone on the street to keep walking. Don't get into an argument, because the guy may have a gun on him or else he'll run back to his apartment and come after you with a shot gun. What a way to bring up my children... telling them to be frightened of people."

Fort Apache

Mr. Walker is a big man with a cigar constantly jutting out of his mouth. He has just written a book: Port Apache, life and death in New York City's most violent precinct.

He joined Four One in 1971 as a lieutenant and had been advised that it was the department's "purgatory." Fort Apache got its nickname back in '72, when a drug pusher, George Washington Jones, killed a junkie with a bow and arrow.

When he was arrested, his friends and relatives tried to take Four One by storm and

in the middle of the battle, the police commissioner rang up to ask: "What the hell is going on there?" The sergeant on duty screamed back: "What the hell do you think is going on? This is Fort Apache."

Four One is a four storey brownstone building, only identifiable by the long line of radio cars double-parked down Simpson Street and the cops hanging round the door like schoolboys during recess. Opposite it is a whole abandoned block with windows built up a head of steam from their brown paper-bagged bottles.

Inside the station, there is a totally informal atmosphere. A couple of Puerto Rican secretaries sit on a table chattering away, a few cops horse around; a stabbed man, blood-stained vest proudly flaunted as a banner and feeling no pain from the booze, ambition crime, it's these daily less around swearing vengeance against his attacker; three anti-crime cops, dressed in chinos, sneakers and sweat shirts, push three handcuffed Puerto Ricans towards the lock-up.

War of nerves

"Sure," says Mr. Walker, "attrition constantly takes place. We don't look at dead bodies as human beings, we do become cynical because all we're looking at is the worst side of life. And we get scared as well."

"Look, the liberals scream at us about police brutality but what do you do when you get a 10-30 (robbery in progress) over the radio, and five minutes later you see a man walking down the street who could fit the description. Now you know he's armed, so when you approach him you don't say 'excuse me sir, you push him up against the wall because you're scared he's going to pull a gun. If he isn't the guy, I always tell my men to apologise. I refuse to let my men take chances. It's my responsibility to get them home to their families every night."

Cops, the world over, are conservative, and the New York one is more so. All those I met in Fort Apache constant-

ly complained about the laxness of the judicial system and the liberalisation of the law.

"Some time ago," an anti-crime cop, slim and bespectacled, Ricky McLees says, "I wrestled with a man who was holding a double-barrel shot gun on me. He was going to use it too but I managed to get it away from him."

"You know what he got? Ninety days. He's out now in spite of having 22 previous convictions, one of them a homicide. The judge said as he didn't hurt me, it was okay. Whatever we do, they're out the next day." The cops are not only cynical about the people they confront daily but they are also cynical about the society they protect.

I had been riding with the anti-crime boys in their unmarked car for a couple of days when Ricky's partner Billy Rath, 26, resembling a college kid in his jeans, long hair and sleeveless denim jacket except he has a 38 under each arm, says: "Seventy per cent of the people living in this precinct are law abiding. Thirty per cent hate us."

Poor vs. poor

"Nearly all crime is the poor against the poor. They are the victims of robberies, assaults, murders, rape. They work hard all day and then come back home to get themselves ripped off. The rich are so high up above us, they never even know what it's like to be a victim; the middle class in their suburbs are only occasionally burglarised or mugged and then they scream their bloody heads about law and order. It's the poor, and us, who are the victims daily."

At ground level, the landscape is exhaustingly depressing. Nothing is whole, neither the buildings nor the people. The apartment blocks were built in the 40's, and by the time the blacks and the Hispanics were moved into them, the buildings were already exhausted. Bad plumbing, no heating, cockroaches, and, quite often, the pipes had been stolen. Equally often, the landlords had abandoned the blocks.

Victims of a bad deal

"None of these people have been given a fair shake," says detective Jack Flannigan. He's a young man with a drooping moustache and enormous enthusiasm for what he is doing. He's the community officer for Four One.

"They have been moved into exhausted buildings and expected to live decently. This is a good community. I meet the residents, the shopkeepers, the small businesses daily and I've organised community projects which do work."

In spite of their self-protective callousness, nearly every cop in Four One answers "people" when asked why he is a cop. A middle-aged black patrolman, who has spent nine years in Four One, explains: "I prefer foot patrol because that keeps me near the people. You see these people turn to us for every problem -- the heat is off, the lights are out, pipes burst, they're having a baby. They don't go to city hall, they come to us with their problems. Eighty per cent of our work problems."

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

| Jordanian fils Buying/Selling | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| U.S. dollar | 315.00/317.00 |
| U.K. sterling | 606.00/610.00 |
| W. German mark | 148.00/149.00 |
| Swiss franc | 157.10/158.00 |
| French franc | 66.80/67.20 |
| Italian lire (for every 100) | 36.10/36.30 |
| Japanese yen (for every 100) | 130.90/131.70 |
| Dutch guilder | 138.20/139.00 |
| Belgian franc (for every tan) | 95.40/96.00 |
| Swedish crown | 67.30/67.70 |

مكتبة الأمل

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RICHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: There is apt to be some confusion and muddled thinking now, so avoid what can be deceptive and fraudulent. Later, a whole new series of conditions comes into being by which you can advance to a much better life with more prosperity.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You get a puzzling communication early but ignore it; do not take it seriously. Try to be of assistance to friends and relatives. Increase own happiness.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't permit a monetary affair to disturb you now since later you can see how best to handle it. An expert can be of great assistance if you consult him.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You are not in a good mood. Take time to improve your appearance and your feeling of well-being. Seek company of good friends.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Conditions are rather trying for you but be philosophical and all works out to your benefit. Don't forget to pay important bills.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) A new contact is disappointing, but a good friend comes to your aid. Take no chances with one who is a fair weather friend.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Give attention to outside affairs that are important early, then plan other activities for later. Show you are a thoughtful person. Take no chances with reputation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Study future plans and make revisions if you deem them necessary. If you have a trip in mind, make arrangements well in advance for best results.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Take care of promises you have made early, although it may be somewhat annoying. Then arrange other obligations intelligently. A loved one may be irritated but this condition soon passes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A new attitude toward some association matter brings good results. An outside affair can also be beneficial to you. Do whatever will bring you more happiness.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Your work may seem annoying but if you persevere you can turn it into pleasure and gain benefits. Take treatments to improve health.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get details of some social or fun affair worked out well; Take mate, loved one along for best results; Don't neglect important work you have to do.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Don't be so reticent at home since all works out nicely later. Study into every aspect of a new undertaking since this can bring you much benefit.

PEANUTS



ANDY GAPP



MUTT & JEFF



THE FLINTSTONES



GORED BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1977 by Chicago Tribune

North-South vulnerable.
East deals.

NORTH
♠ K1073
♥ 7
♦ KJ54
♣ KJ53

WEST ♠ 842
♥ KJ9842
♦ 8
♣ Q102

EAST ♠ J9
♥ A103
♦ A1063
♣ 9864

SOUTH
♠ AQ65
♥ Q65
♦ 972
♣ A7

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♥ Dbl.
3 ♥ 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠
Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: ♠

The North American challengers beat the defending champions with a sensational rally over the last 32 boards of the 96-board final to win the Bermuda Bowl, symbol of world bridge supremacy.

Trailing by 49 International Match Points after 64 boards, the challengers gained 60 IMPs on the next 16 and went on to win by 31 1/2 IMPs. They had luck on their side. This board, from early in their rally, was typical.

North-South were employing five-card majors. West's jump overcall was of the weak variety and North's double was "negative," i.e., for takeout. South showed his spades and, with a good double fit, North's raise to game was automatic.

The fate of the hand rested on the opening lead. At one table, the defending champion in the West seat felt that it was important to get whatever heart tricks were due to his side before declarer could take a discard. Therefore, he selected the eight of hearts as his opening lead.

East won the ace of hearts. He could have shifted to the ace of diamonds and another, giving his partner a ruff, but that would have been the third and last trick for the defenders. No other defense would have prevailed, so the challengers scored their vulnerable game.

At the other table, Bob Hamman also led a red eight—but he chose the eight of diamonds. Bob Wolff won the ace and returned the ten of diamonds, a suit preference signal for hearts. Hamman ruffed, led a heart to his partner's ace and scored another diamond ruff to defeat the contract.

The challengers won 12 IMPs on the deal.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

| JORDAN TELEVISION | EBC RADIO | AMMAN AIRPORT |
|---|---|--|
| Channel 3 & 6: 10:00 Quran 10:15 Caravan 10:30 Arabic programme 11:00 Religious programme 11:40 World Today 12:10 Vision on 12:30 Secrets of the sea 12:50 Animated classics 13:00 Soccer match 14:00 Arabic play 14:30 Laurel and Hardy 16:10 Arabic series 17:00 Men build new destroyers 17:30 Arabic play 18:20 Animation | Channel 3: 19:30 Religious programme 20:30 Arabic series 21:10 Reportage Channel 6: 19:30 News in Hebrew 19:45 Film 20:30 Forty towns 21:10 The brothers 22:00 News in English 22:15 Barista | Arrivals: 6:00 Ravalpindi 6:00 Baghdad 6:15 Kuwait (KAC) 6:30 Cairo 6:50 Amman 7:00 New York 7:10 Beirut (Taron) 7:15 London 7:20 Frankfurt, Copenhagen 7:30 Paris (AF) 7:40 Cairo 7:50 Madrid, Athens 8:00 Jeddah, Medina (SD) 8:15 Paris, Rome 8:30 Beirut (OZA) 8:40 Frankfurt, Munich 8:50 Damascus (LH) 9:00 London (BA) 9:10 Cairo |
| RADIO JORDAN 7:00 Breakfast show 7:30 News bulletin 8:00 Morning show 8:30 News bulletin 9:00 Morning show 9:30 Morning show 10:00 Morning show 10:30 Morning show 11:00 Morning show 11:30 Morning show 12:00 News bulletin 12:30 Pop session 13:00 News bulletin 13:30 Pop session 14:00 News bulletin 14:30 Concert hour 15:00 News bulletin 15:30 Jordan weekly 16:00 Pop session 16:30 Pop session 17:00 Pop session 17:30 Pop session 18:00 Pop session 18:30 Pop session 19:00 Pop session 19:30 Pop session 20:00 Pop session 20:30 Pop session 21:00 Pop session 21:30 Pop session 22:00 Pop session 22:30 Pop session 23:00 Pop session 23:30 Pop session 24:00 Pop session | GMT 05:00 News: 24 Hours 05:30 Sarah Ward 06:00 World Today 06:30 News 07:00 News: 24 Hours 07:30 Sarah Ward 08:00 News 08:30 News: 24 Hours 09:00 News 09:30 News: 24 Hours 10:00 News 10:30 News: 24 Hours 11:00 News 11:30 News: 24 Hours 12:00 News 12:30 News: 24 Hours 13:00 News 13:30 News: 24 Hours 14:00 News 14:30 News: 24 Hours 15:00 News 15:30 News: 24 Hours 16:00 News 16:30 News: 24 Hours 17:00 News 17:30 News: 24 Hours 18:00 News 18:30 News: 24 Hours 19:00 News 19:30 News: 24 Hours 20:00 News 20:30 News: 24 Hours 21:00 News 21:30 News: 24 Hours 22:00 News 22:30 News: 24 Hours 23:00 News 23:30 News: 24 Hours 24:00 News | Departures: 6:00 London 6:05 Amman 6:15 Beirut (MEA) 6:30 Cairo 6:45 Amman 6:55 Amman 7:05 Amman 7:15 Amman 7:25 Amman 7:35 Amman 7:45 Amman 7:55 Amman 8:05 Amman 8:15 Amman 8:25 Amman 8:35 Amman 8:45 Amman 8:55 Amman 9:05 Amman 9:15 Amman 9:25 Amman 9:35 Amman 9:45 Amman 9:55 Amman 10:05 Amman 10:15 Amman 10:25 Amman 10:35 Amman 10:45 Amman 10:55 Amman 11:05 Amman 11:15 Amman 11:25 Amman 11:35 Amman 11:45 Amman 11:55 Amman 12:05 Amman 12:15 Amman 12:25 Amman 12:35 Amman 12:45 Amman 12:55 Amman 13:05 Amman 13:15 Amman 13:25 Amman 13:35 Amman 13:45 Amman 13:55 Amman 14:05 Amman 14:15 Amman 14:25 Amman 14:35 Amman 14:45 Amman 14:55 Amman 15:05 Amman 15:15 Amman 15:25 Amman 15:35 Amman 15:45 Amman 15:55 Amman 16:05 Amman 16:15 Amman 16:25 Amman 16:35 Amman 16:45 Amman 16:55 Amman 17:05 Amman 17:15 Amman 17:25 Amman 17:35 Amman 17:45 Amman 17:55 Amman 18:05 Amman 18:15 Amman 18:25 Amman 18:35 Amman 18:45 Amman 18:55 Amman 19:05 Amman 19:15 Amman 19:25 Amman 19:35 Amman 19:45 Amman 19:55 Amman 20:05 Amman 20:15 Amman 20:25 Amman 20:35 Amman 20:45 Amman 20:55 Amman 21:05 Amman 21:15 Amman 21:25 Amman 21:35 Amman 21:45 Amman 21:55 Amman 22:05 Amman 22:15 Amman 22:25 Amman 22:35 Amman 22:45 Amman 22:55 Amman 23:05 Amman 23:15 Amman 23:25 Amman 23:35 Amman 23:45 Amman 23:55 Amman 24:05 Amman |
| EMERGENCIES Doctors: Amman: Yusuf Hameed (25470) Amman: Nasser (2552) Amman: Khalid Amman: Omar Qasbi (2512) Zarqa: Muntazir (25740) Zarqa: Rifaat (2552) Zarqa: Sali (2552) Zarqa: The university (21001) | Pharmacies: Amman: Subhah (2157) Amman: Asrar (2579) Amman: Central (2121) Amman: Shadi (2552) Zarqa: Far Zarqa: Zarqa Zarqa: Zarqa Zarqa: Zarqa | USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS Ambulance (government) Tel. 7511 Civil defence Tel. 7511-1 Fire Tel. 7511-2 Fire Tel. 7511-3 Fire Tel. 7511-4 Fire Tel. 7511-5 Fire Tel. 7511-6 Fire Tel. 7511-7 Fire Tel. 7511-8 Fire Tel. 7511-9 Fire Tel. 7511-10 Fire Tel. 7511-11 Fire Tel. 7511-12 Fire Tel. 7511-13 Fire Tel. 7511-14 Fire Tel. 7511-15 Fire Tel. 7511-16 Fire Tel. 7511-17 Fire Tel. 7511-18 Fire Tel. 7511-19 Fire Tel. 7511-20 Fire Tel. 7511-21 Fire Tel. 7511-22 Fire Tel. 7511-23 Fire Tel. 7511-24 Fire Tel. 7511-25 Fire Tel. 7511-26 Fire Tel. 7511-27 Fire Tel. 7511-28 Fire Tel. 7511-29 Fire Tel. 7511-30 Fire Tel. 7511-31 Fire Tel. 7511-32 Fire Tel. 7511-33 Fire Tel. 7511-34 Fire Tel. 7511-35 Fire Tel. 7511-36 Fire Tel. 7511-37 Fire Tel. 7511-38 Fire Tel. 7511-39 Fire Tel. 7511-40 Fire Tel. 7511-41 Fire Tel. 7511-42 Fire Tel. 7511-43 Fire Tel. 7511-44 Fire Tel. 7511-45 Fire Tel. 7511-46 Fire Tel. 7511-47 Fire Tel. 7511-48 Fire Tel. 7511-49 Fire Tel. 7511-50 Fire Tel. 7511-51 Fire Tel. 7511-52 Fire Tel. 7511-53 Fire Tel. 7511-54 Fire Tel. 7511-55 Fire Tel. 7511-56 Fire Tel. 7511-57 Fire Tel. 7511-58 Fire Tel. 7511-59 Fire Tel. 7511-60 Fire Tel. 7511-61 Fire Tel. 7511-62 Fire Tel. 7511-63 Fire Tel. 7511-64 Fire Tel. 7511-65 Fire Tel. 7511-66 Fire Tel. 7511-67 Fire Tel. 7511-68 Fire Tel. 7511-69 Fire Tel. 7511-70 Fire Tel. 7511-71 Fire Tel. 7511-72 Fire Tel. 7511-73 Fire Tel. 7511-74 Fire Tel. 7511-75 Fire Tel. 7511-76 Fire Tel. 7511-77 Fire Tel. 7511-78 Fire Tel. 7511-79 Fire Tel. 7511-80 Fire Tel. 7511-81 Fire Tel. 7511-82 Fire Tel. 7511-83 Fire Tel. 7511-84 Fire Tel. 7511-85 Fire Tel. 7511-86 Fire Tel. 7511-87 Fire Tel. 7511-88 Fire Tel. 7511-89 Fire Tel. 7511-90 Fire Tel. 7511-91 Fire Tel. 7511-92 Fire Tel. 7511-93 Fire Tel. 7511-94 Fire Tel. 7511-95 Fire Tel. 7511-96 Fire Tel. 7511-97 Fire Tel. 7511-98 Fire Tel. 7511-99 Fire Tel. 7511-100 |

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- Obtained
- Feminine name
- Burles on
- Pearl
- Inflexible
- Endure use
- Brightest star
- As written, in music
- Rumors
- Adjective suffix
- Verb form
- Modern letter
- Amateur
- Accuses

DOWN

- Dive's specialty
- Jackpot
- Provoking
- Pitches
- Kind of lace
- Harmonize
- Spanish article
- Painted out
- Triumphant
- Juvenile
- Son of Adam
- Segregated
- Unlabeled
- This, in Madrid
- Esperanto
- Pitch

SOLUTION OF YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

1. By what means
2. Writer George
3. Sweetheart

4. Correlative of
5. Resumes
6. Hebrew lye
7. Indian madder
8. Jethro
9. Assenting
10. Rive
11. Food bits
12. Adjusted a motor
13. Ideal golf
14. Commodities
15. Rice paste
16. Without a companion
17. Biblical character
18. Flax fiber
19. Seasoned
20. Yore
21. Remained
22. Midian king
23. Casual
24. Thatching grass
25. Secretary
26. Downy
27. Article
28. Fodder
29. Singing syllable
30. Satisfy

Par time 25 min. AP Newsfeatures 1/6

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Accord expected soon in Rhodesian talks on internal settlement

SALISBURY, Jan. 12 (R). — A major breakthrough is imminent in the Rhodesian settlement talks between the white government and black nationalist parties, informed sources said today.

Sources close to both black and white delegations in the talks said agreement is near on the thorny issue of white minority representation in the parliament of a black majority-ruled Zimbabwe.

This issue had deadlocked the so-called internal settlement talks for almost a month, with occasional bitter wrangling between the government, the United African National Council (UANC) of Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the African National Council (ANC) of the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole. The third black party involved, the Zimbabwe United

Peoples Organisation (ZUPO) of Chief Jeremiah Chirau, had taken up a virtual mediating role, the sources said.

The government had been aiming for 33 white seats in a theoretical 100-seat parliament which could be used as a blocking mechanism against future changes to a constitution which would embrace safeguards for white interests.

The UANC and the ANC had offered 20 seats, arguing that a solid white bloc of 33 could merge as the biggest single group in parliament — in effect negating black majority rule. The remaining 67 seats, representing 95 per cent of the population, would have been split among the three black parties.

Plenary sessions of the talks, which began on Dec. 2, ended on Jan. 3 with no agreement in sight. The delegation leaders then held four exclusive secret meetings to hammer out the problem — and today appeared to have almost succeeded. A fifth heads of delegation meeting was held today.

The heads of delegation had compromised on a median figure, the sources said. It was not immediately clear what the exact figure was, but some informants said it was between 26 and 28 white seats.

U.K. hit by worst floods in 25 years

LONDON, Jan. 12 (R). — Gales and snow lashed Britain during the night, whipping up high tides in the North Sea and breaching coastal defences in the worst flooding since the January 1953 disaster that left more than 300 dead.

England's low-lying east coast bore the brunt of the storm. Hundreds of homes were flooded when pounding seas burst through sea walls.

Several ships were reported in trouble and coast guards were searching for an unidentified coaster with seven people aboard that was feared to have capsized in the North Sea off Suffolk.

At King's Lynn, Norfolk, many people were trapped in their homes as the town centre was flooded to a depth of one metre.

Further north in Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire, police reported 500 homes flooded. Several hundred people, many of them disabled and handicapped children, were rescued from the town after being trapped for more than five hours.

They were watching a pantomime in the pier theatre when the storm roared in from the North Sea with winds of more than 140 kph an hour.

There was no immediate word of casualties from the floods which also hit southeastern coastal areas in Kent and Essex. But at least three people were killed in car crashes at the height of the storm which blocked roads and railway lines all over the country.

London escaped flooding by a mere 50 cms. early this morning. High tides sweeping up the River Thames threatened to swamp flood defences but a last-minute change of wind spared low-lying areas of the capital.

Weathermen said the Arctic conditions showed no sign of easing and more snow was on the way.

4 Soviets on full-time space work

MOSCOW, Jan. 12 (R). — Four Soviet cosmonauts today began their first working day together aboard the orbiting Salyut-6 space station, with a packed schedule of equipment checks, experiments and cine-filming ahead of them.

Radio Moscow said the spacemen, crews of two separate Soyuz ferry vehicles, got down to work at 8:00 Moscow time (05:00 GMT) and were carrying out their programme successfully.

Soyuz-26 cosmonauts Yuri Romanenko and Georgy Grechko, and their Soyuz-27 comrades Vladimir Dzhanibekov and Oleg Makarov — who docked with the station yesterday to complete the first-ever triple link-up in space — were all feeling well, it said.

4 Czech dissidents appeal against prison sentences

PRAGUE, Jan. 12 (Agencies). — Lawyer for four Czechoslovak dissidents convicted of anti-state subversion today appealed before the Supreme Court for the verdicts to be quashed.

The four — three of them signatories of the Charter 77 human rights manifesto — were sentenced for up to three-and-a-half years last October, for trying to smuggle literature critical of Czechoslovakia to the West.

About 40 sympathisers, many of them on a token one-day hunger strike, huddled outside the courthouse in near zero temperatures as the proceedings got underway.

Only immediate family members of the defendants were allowed into the court. Friends and foreign journalists were told there was no room for them.

Among the crowd waiting outside was former Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Hajek, now one of three spokesmen for the Charter.

Earlier today, dissident sources released copies of a letter from the spokesmen to the Belgrade European Security Conference — the first time the Charterists had addressed an official statement to a body outside Czechoslovakia.

The four dissidents appealing before the Supreme Court are journalist Jiri Lederer, writer Vaclav Havel and theatre managers Frantisek Pavlicek and Ota Ornest.

Mr. Ornest was the only one of the four who had not signed the Charter and the only one who pleaded guilty. He was sentenced to three-and-one-half years.

He subsequently confessed his errors twice on Czech Television and repudiated the Charter 77 movement.

Pavlicek and Havel received suspended prison sentences, while Lederer was sentenced to three years' imprisonment.

In Vienna, exiled Czech dissidents today staged another hunger strike in front of the Czech Travel Bureau to protest against the conviction of journalist Lederer.

Viets urge Cambodia to begin peace talks

BANGKOK, Jan. 12 (Agencies). — A Vietnamese minister today urged Cambodia to begin peace talks on the border conflict between the two countries or "they will have to bear all the consequences."

Deputy Foreign Minister Vo Dong Giang said that he believed the border war, which has flared for the past two weeks and is believed to have cost both countries thousands of lives, "would be resolved in a friendly and brotherly way. We believe this is the wish of the people of both countries," he told a press conference at the end of a south-east Asian tour with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh.

Mr. Giang made no reference to the latest situation on the battlefields, where major fighting appears to have stopped, leaving Vietnamese troops

apparently in control of substantial wedges of Cambodian border territory.

Meanwhile, Cambodian Radio today reported victories and continued fighting against Vietnamese "invaders."

Cambodia has indicated that it will come to peace talks — but only if Vietnamese troops pull back from Cambodian territory.

Asked by newsmen whether there were Vietnamese troops inside Cambodia, Mr. Giang would only say that Vietnam respected all peoples' sovereignty, "and above all that of all the neighbouring, friendly people."

Mr. Giang repeated Vietnam's stand that persistent Cambodian border attacks since the two countries came under communist rule nearly three years ago were the reason for the fighting.

3rd of a five-part series

U.S. eye-witness reports: Israelis in north Sinai, Gaza Strip regard settlements as "buffer zone" between Egypt and Israel

Editor's note: This is the third in the five-part series of articles the Jordan Times is publishing from transcripts of a testimony made by American political scientist-researcher Dr. Ann M. Lesch to the U.S. House of Representatives International Affairs Subcommittee on the Near East. Dr. Lesch's testimony on Israeli settlements in occupied Arab territories followed her two years' sojourn, and extensive research, in occupied Jerusalem. Her testimony is widely considered to be the definitive article to date on Israeli settlements. Today's part, headed Appendix A by the author, is a May 1975 report on Israeli settlements in north Sinai — currently subject to controversy as Egypt and Israel hold peace talks in Cairo.

By Dr. Ann M. Lesch

APPENDIX A

I. The Rafah approaches in northern Sinai

On Jan. 29, 1975, I visited the Rafah approaches with a group organised by the Israel Academic Committee on the Middle East. We talked to residents of one of the moshavim (cooperative farms), inspected the site of the town of Yamit, and briefly visited a new para-military (nahal) post, which would eventually become Sucoth (Sufa) kibbutz.

The settlers at Yamit have grandiose plans. They project an eventual population of a quarter-million, and they expect Yamit to have an international airport, large commercial port, electronic-based industries, an extensive beach resort, railway station, and garages. At the time of our visit, however, Yamit consisted of 150 pre-cast cement housing units, being assembled by Arab labourers, which would be ready for occupancy in September. The units had been allocated to 60 military families, 40 American immigrant families, and 40 sabra (native-born Israeli) families. The American group now lives in Beersheba, but the Russians live on a nearby settlement. One of the young Russian settlers, who came from Vilna four years ago, told us that the construction of Yamit has been slowed by the October war but had recently accelerated. Development of the site has also been slowed by the presence of bedouins, the remnants of whom still lived among the palm trees lining the beach. Yamit's official spokesman said that their identity cards had been stamped to require them to leave by Jan. 15, but the requirement still had not been enforced.

At moshav Sadot we were briefed by Jeanie Ilan, a young woman who immigrated from the United States in 1963. She came to Sadot with her sabra husband in the first settlement

group in 1971. Since then she has had three children and Sadot has grown from 19 families to 52, including 153 children. New members are selected by the Jewish Agency. Jeanie said that the government decided to open up the Rafah approaches for Israeli settlement in 1970, but the tension and violence in the Gaza Strip was so great at that time that only 30 or 40 families applied to settle there. Since Sadot has been established, she noted, they have had no difficulties with the neighbouring bedouins or the Gaza Arabs, adding that the settlements are under the legal jurisdiction of the Gaza Strip military government and thus each Arab worker must pass a security check and obtain a work permit from the military government before he can come to the settlement for employment.

Jeanie said that the Sadot settlers want no more than 100 families in their settlement, which would become part of a network of settlements filling the area between the Gaza Strip and Al Arish. She felt that this area would be a crucial "buffer" within "greater Israel", separating Egypt and "old Israel". Jeanie noted the substantial official investment in the settlement: the government, Jewish Agency and Jewish National Fund together invested a quarter-of-a-million Israeli pounds per family in Sadot. That covered preparing the site, building the concrete 64 sq. metre houses, supplying agricultural equipment, irrigation pipes, roads, and providing living expense grants until the first crops were harvested. The residents repay this investment on a long-term basis at a low interest rate. All the men work in the fields alongside their hired Arab help. Each family works 36 dunums (nine acres), growing vegetables and flowers. Jeanie commented that the settlements have been accused of hiring the same bedouins who had been displaced from that land. She said that the accusation was true for the neighbouring moshav, but not for Sadot. However she candidly stated that the settlements and Yamit were built on land that had been owned — not

just squatted on — by the bedouins. She felt that it was obvious that the bedouins had to be moved out if a city was to be built there.

Overview

The Israeli army began to establish Nahal settlements on the northern Sinai coast and in the Gaza Strip soon after the 1967 war ended. These settlements included Nahal Yam on Lake Bardawil (60 kms. from the Suez Canal), which was founded by October 1967 on an Egyptian fishing site. Nahal Sinai, populated by Labour Party affiliated kibbutz members, was founded just south west of Al Arish in 1968. Its three dozen settlers worked 250 acres of olive and citrus groves planted by the Egyptian government. A third settlement was Nahal Dikla, seven miles southwest of Rafah, founded in May 1969 on the site of an Egyptian desert development company. Five paramilitary outposts were established within the Gaza Strip from 1970 to 1973, on key security locations which break up the continuity of the Arab communities. An occupying power can justify security outposts, but not civilian settlements, according to Article 49 of the Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. But the Gaza Strip settlements are now being "civilianised" and the settlements in the Rafah approaches were civilian from the start, although guarded by the army.

The location of the settlements is basically determined by political criteria. In early 1973, for example, the army decided to abandon Nahal Yam, leaving its settlers to manage on their own, because the site was only 60 kms. from the canal and therefore within the area that might be returned to Egypt under an interim agreement. Similarly, in late 1974 the government began to shift Nahal Sinai to a new site just east of Al Arish; presumably Al Arish would be the furthest point of Egyptian control in the future. (Jerusalem Post, Jan. 15, 1975). Settlement in northern Sinai was actively promoted by the Foreign, the Defence Minister, Moshe Dayan. He commissioned a ten-month study, involving city planners and architects, to lay the basis for Yamit. The public and the Knesset (Israeli parliament) only learned of the plan after it was completed in September 1972. Dayan's plan proposed a city of a quarter-million, to absorb thousands of Soviet immigrants, and "close the gap between the populated area of the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula." (Dayan's statement on the radio, on Dec. 14, 1972).

He subsequently added: "I have proposed establishing Yamit... in order for it to serve as one of the components for establishing the border farther west." (Broadcast, Oct. 8, 1973). Yamit was opposed by the two Mapam ministers and by former Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir as "creeping annexation." (New York Times, Dec. 26, 1972), but a modified plan — calling for 350 housing units in two December 1972. It is important to note that this decision came only five months after President Anwar Sadat ousted the Soviet advisors from Egypt, and therefore at a time when the Israeli government felt relieved of any significant military and diplomatic pressure.

Settlement-planners had to cope with the presence of thousands of bedouins in the Rafah approaches. The head of the Southern Command, Gen. Ariel Sharon, began to evict them in 1971 and constructed a ten-foot-high fence around part of the area. He justified the action on security grounds, but critics argued that the evictions occurred after the Strip had been "pacified" and that, anyway, only one of the olive evicted tribes had been implicated in gun-running or

guerrilla action. (Ha 'Aretz, Sept. 3, 1973). By 1973, only a few hundred Arabs lived in the Yamit area; the others were cut off from their palm trees, almond groves, and vegetable plots which lay within the fenced-off area. In February 1975 a Mapam delegation met with Sheikh Sabah Ubaidallah Al Salimiah and other tribal heads, who complained that their homes, school and mosque had been destroyed and their people expelled (Davar, Feb. 12, 1975). Yediot Ahronot newspaper reported that month (Feb. 28) that heavy tractors had crushed bedouin almond groves near Nahal Sucoth, noting that 6,000-20,000 bedouins had already been affected by large-scale evictions in 1969 and 1972, the former covering a million dunums (250,000 acres). Those bedouins who were willing to accept compensation received about 50 Israeli pounds per dunum, but it was only after a public outcry in Israel that the government announced a rehabilitation programme: IL 2 million was allocated for eight resettlement sites (in contrast to the outlay of IL 10 million per Israeli settlement), but the first five-dunum plots were not prepared until 1975. (Jerusalem Post, Jan. 8, 1975). Where-

as each Israeli family in Sadot worked 36 irrigated dunums, each Bedouin family was to receive a five dunum plot, of which only two dunums would be irrigated (Jerusalem Post, April 4, 1975). The men would therefore have to work on Israeli farms and construction sites. Defence Minister Shimon Peres claimed that 1,500 families accepted these terms by mid-April 1975 (Jerusalem Post, April 9, 1975). The construction of Yamit halted immediately after the October war. Although partly the result of budgetary restriction, the halt appeared to be principally due to diplomatic considerations. Only three small moshavim existed in the

Rafah approaches at that time. But building for Yamit resumed in mid-1974 and four new Nahal outposts were established then (Davar, Aug. 21, 1974). The Jerusalem Post reported (Jan. 15, 1975) that development was to be accelerated, as the result of a top-level government decision, and the Housing Ministry announced that it would invest IL 67.6 million in 217 housing units in Gaza and Sinai in 1975, more than would be built on the Golan or the West Bank (Yediot Ahronot, Feb. 25, 1975). In fact, by April 1975, the Housing Ministry had invested IL 50 million in Yamit alone. (Davar, quoted in The Best of Israel's Press, April 4, 1975).

By 1976 there will be a small town at Yamit, and four settlements nearby. They will have pleasant houses, with newly-planted trees and colourful rose gardens. Children will bicycle down the paths and mothers will push their babies in carriages to the market. This will create tangible emotional bonds to the site, reinforcing the government and private investment there. The Rafah approaches are rapidly being incorporated into Israel, dividing the Gaza Strip from Al Arish and the rest of Sinai, and tending to pre-empt Israeli-Egyptian negotiations. (Tomorrow: Golan Heights settlements)

